

WASHINGTON STAR  
9 NOVEMBER 1975

William F. Buckley Jr.

## When you've got a Kissinger, Schlesinger, Colby are musts

The convulsions of the past few days betray the inner strain of an administration that faces difficulties of several kinds. The eruption has changed the landscape, but it can't be predicted that the new one will settle down in the sense that the old one never did.

For instance:

(1) The resignation of Rockefeller, although carefully, not to say unctuously, crafted, cannot escape provoking a barrage of criticism from the Republican left against Ford. It will be widely assumed that Rockefeller was in fact ousted, that the harassments by Howard Callaway and others finally achieved the intended effect.

It is of course entirely possible that Mr. Rockefeller wanted to be out of the way when New York, his personal temple, begins to crack because of the ersatz building materials used for its construction.

The future role of Rockefeller is by no means clear. Although he avers that he will continue to serve out his term as vice president, Mr. Rockefeller has been known to change his mind, like two or three times a year. Here are circumstances that might make him change it this time around.

Suppose that Ronald Reagan, who is already strengthened by the inexplicable firing of James Schlesinger and William Colby, marches through New Hampshire and Florida like Sherman through Georgia. Then Ford will in effect pull out of the race. At that moment the liberal faction within the Republican party might urge Rockefeller to resign the vice presidency and submit his name in the later primaries against Reagan.

Depending on how the situation goes in New York, Rockefeller could cause to coincide two motives for his resignation: the first to assert the liberal leadership of the Republican party, the second to present an alternative to President Ford's tough position against bailing out municipalities that overspend. If the direr predictions about what will happen if New York defaults are borne out, then Rockefeller

would emerge as something of an urban champion, as distinguished from merely a parochial champion of the interests of New York City and his brother David.

If that happened, then we'd have a real contest, in the style of 1964: Reagan vs. Rockefeller. The winner of that contest would be Reagan, though just possibly, let us be frank, also the Democratic party.

(2) Mr. Ford's dismissal of James Schlesinger and William Colby is a blow to advocates of a balanced security program. Mr. Kissinger's withdrawal from his post as national-security adviser to the President would appear to make very little difference inasmuch as the man who replaces him is Mr. Kissinger's close friend and entirely obedient servant. It simply means that when Mr. Kissinger is advising the President on national security policy, he will speak not directly, but as a ventriloquist.

The loss, on the other hand, of Schlesinger is a major blow. When you have a secretary of state who is hot on the matter of detente, you've got to have a secretary of defense who is hot on the matter of defense. Schlesinger's extraordinary combination of skills, as a highly trained strategist who can talk back to an IBM 360 computer, is the cultivation of a lifetime's work, different from the kind of work to which the able Mr. Rumsfeld has devoted himself.

And the dismissal of William Colby, who has carried himself through these humiliating months with exemplary virtue and taste, suggests triumph of the running-dog school of intelligence criticism. Once again, when you have detente, you have to have first-rate intelligence. Mr. George Bush is a first-rate man, but he will come to the job at a moment when the cloud that hung over the agency was cast into marble, made stationary by the circumstances of the thoughtless dismissal of the brilliantly qualified incumbent.

If it were not that Mr. Ford's problems are so closely one's own problems, one would worry less.